

Arizona Department of Child Safety

RISK ASSESSMENT CONTINUUM

All families have risk and this guide will provide different examples of risk that a child, parent/guardian/ parent, guardian, or custodian, or family might have. This is intended to help assess a family's level of risk and/or the need for intervention.

CHILD RISK FACTORS

The Child Safety Specialist is assessing the level of exposure child abuse and neglect as related to a child's vulnerability, ability to protect themselves, development delays, behavior issues, and past victimizations.

Child Vulnerability/Self Protection		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child may escape or hide to avoid abuse.• Child recognizes the behavior as abusive, but cannot consistently avoid it.• Child may be able to physically resist abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child displays occasional ability to protect self.• Child is unable to distinguish between abuse and discipline.• Child occasionally seeks assistance to protect self.• Child has a relationship with person outside home, not consistently available for protection.• Child is reluctant to be with parent, guardian, or custodian.• Child is fearful of retaliation from parent, guardian, or custodian.• Child is fearful of home environment due to domestic violence, drug/alcohol use, dangerous people and/or health and safety issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child is unable to protect self.• Child views abuse as normal and acceptable.• Child lives or is left in unsafe environments.• Child is not supported in efforts to seek help or protection.• Child is unable to communicate.• Child is unable to seek assistance.• Child is 0 to 5 years old or a child with special needs.• Child has no visibility in the community.• Child blames self for abuse.• Child recants or denies substantiated abuse.• Child hides or minimized injuries.• Child has a history of running away.• Child is unable to provide for self during runaway episodes and is susceptible to exploitation.
Protective behaviors that mitigate risk identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child has demonstrated an ability to consistently protect self.• Child knows where to go for help - can dial phone number or go to neighbor, etc.• Non-abusive parent, guardian, or custodian or other person in the home assists or encourages child to protect themselves.• Child has developed relationships with people outside the family system who can support them.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is supportive of child's relationships with friends and family who can help keep the child safe.	
Family strengths that can Support Case Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child expresses trust of parent, guardian, or custodians and does not appear fearful.• Child appears to be happy with parent, guardian, or custodians.• Child has a childlike approach to situations and does not seem to have lost their sense of innocence.	
Child Special Needs/Behavior Problems		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child displays minor behavioral problems with no physical, mental, social or developmental delays.• Child often has age appropriate behaviors.• Child has minor illness/medical condition requiring periodic parental attention.• Child has mild	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child is behaviorally disturbed/significant physical, mental, social or developmental delays.• Infant is irritable and/or distressed and often difficult to console.• Child has medical condition, physical disability or psychological condition requiring regular parental and/or medical attention.• Child has behavior problems which	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child has profound physical, mental, social, or developmental delays.• Child has low birth weight and/or medically fragile infant.• Child has extreme and challenging behaviors requiring almost constant management and supervision.• Child is reliant on parent for total care due to physical/developmental disability.• Child regularly used drugs and/or alcohol.• Child's behavior causes regular removal from academic and social environments.

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developmental delay. Child has minor hyperactivity or depression. Child has minor school problems or occasional truancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> interfere with academic performance and social relationships with peers. Child has significant pattern of aggression or withdrawal at school, home or with friends. Child is periodically absent from school or runs away for short periods of time. Child may exhibit inappropriate behavior for their age. Child has difficulty concentrating at school. Child is overeating, losing weight or other changes in diet. Child is occasionally violent and dangerous to others. Child displays some self-destructive behavior. Child destroys objects. Child experiments with drugs and alcohol. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child exposes himself to risk situations without knowledge of danger. Child is violent and dangerous to others and self. Child has criminal history. Child is involved in coercive, aggressive sexual behavior. Mutilation/killing of animals.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent, guardian, or custodian is knowledgeable about the child's special needs (i.e. diet, medication, medical condition or concerns and uses this knowledge to meet the child's needs Parent, guardian, or custodian has sought services or supports for the child and uses the information to meet the child's needs. There are other members of the family who actively support the parent, guardian, or custodian in meeting the child's needs 	
Family strengths that can support Case Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child displays age appropriate behavior with no physical, mental, social or developmental delays. Parent, guardian, or custodian is sympathetic to the child's needs Child is confident in school. Child has friends. 	

PARENT, GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAN RISK FACTORS

Parenting Skills and Expectations of Child		
	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent, guardian, or custodian has some unrealistic expectations of child and or gaps in parenting skills. Parent, guardian, or custodian is inconsistent in disciplining child based on age and behavior. Parent, guardian, or custodian does not consistently offer assistance or encouragement to promote child's healthy development. Parent, guardian, or custodian has some understanding of normal child development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent, guardian, or custodian has significant gaps in knowledge or skills that interfere with effective parenting. Parent, guardian, or custodian has limited understanding of child's developmental stage, skills and abilities. Parent, guardian, or custodian consistently demonstrates unrealistic expectations of child. Parent, guardian, or custodian assigns child responsibilities that exceed child's developmental skills and abilities. Parent, guardian, or custodian reacts with a consistently negative response to child. Parent, guardian, or custodian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent, guardian, or custodian has gross deficits in parenting knowledge and skills or inappropriate demands and expectations of child. Parent, guardian, or custodian has little or no understanding of child's developmental skills and assigns child tasks beyond their capacities. Parent, guardian, or custodian scapegoats child, assigning blame and engaging in physical punishment. Parent, guardian, or custodian punishes child for age appropriate behaviors. Parent, guardian, or custodian does not intervene when young child is in dangerous situations. Parent, guardian, or custodian demonstrates helplessness and hopelessness to control child's dangerous or out-of control behaviors. Parent, guardian, or custodian rewards child for anti-social and/or negative behaviors. Parent, guardian, or custodian does not express affection or interest in child.

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

	engages in harsh physical punishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, guardian, or custodian does not recognize or respond to child’s needs.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, guardian, or custodian provides environment that is child friendly.Parent, guardian, or custodian has age-appropriate expectations and demonstrates them in interaction with child.Parent, guardian, or custodian demonstrates interactions with the child in loving and/or fun ways.Parent, guardian, or custodian uses visual aids such as pictures on the refrigerator to compliment the child’s progress.Parent, guardian, or custodian is able to change their parenting style based on the needs of the child or redirects child in positive ways.	
Family strengths that can support Case Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, guardian, or custodian is able to identify the child's strengths.Parent, guardian, or custodian work together to parent.Parent, guardian, or custodian is proud of child and expresses this to child.Parent, guardian, or custodian and child talk with one another as age appropriate about behaviors and what is acceptable and what is not.Parent, guardian, or custodian is eager to learn more about child development and age appropriate behavior.	
Empathy, Nurturance, Bonding		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, guardian, or custodian provides inconsistent expression of acceptance, stimulation, and interaction.Parent, guardian, or custodian rarely praises child although can identify strengths and positive qualities of child if asked.Parent, guardian, or custodian is critical when child makes normal developmental mistakes or errors.Parent, guardian, or custodian is overly protective of child, limiting interaction with peers, family members, and community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, guardian, or custodian withholds affections and acceptance but is not openly rejecting or hostile with child.Parent, guardian, or custodian rarely enjoys company of or spends time with child.Parent, guardian, or custodian isolates child from rest of family or social situations.Parent, guardian, or custodian does not recognize nor intervene when child needs help.Parent, guardian, or custodian uses belittling language when talking to or about child.Parent, guardian, or custodian isolates child from the rest of family or social situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, guardian, or custodian severely rejects child, providing no affection, attention, or stimulation.Parent, guardian, or custodian demonstrates no attachment or bonding with child.Parent, guardian, or custodian expects child to meet own needs.Parent, guardian, or custodian makes statements that devalue, demoralize, or reject child.Child is immediately friendly with strangers, clinging to or seeking physical attention.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, guardian, or custodian praises and encourages child.Parent, guardian, or custodian creates an environment where child can share his/her fears and feelings.Parent, guardian, or custodian interacts with child and providers appropriate and adequate stimulation.Parent, guardian, or custodian hugs child in comfort and is empathetic to child's emotional needs.Parent, guardian, or custodian demonstrates understanding of age appropriate behavior of children/youth.Parent, guardian, or custodian allows child to set the pace of bonding with their new partner(s).	
Family strengths that can support case plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, guardian, or custodian clearly enjoys spending time with child.Parent, guardian, or custodian asks questions about child's day.Parent, guardian, or custodian expresses willingness to learn about child's needs.Parent, guardian, or custodian attends school meetings and or activities.Parent, guardian, or custodian has toys that are age appropriate.	

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian reads to child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian seeks out parent, guardian, or custodian for comfort.	
Parent Substance Abuse		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History of substance abuse, but no current problems.• Has completed treatment and remained free from substance abuse for more than one year.• Is voluntarily involved in treatment, has regularly attended support groups or meetings for at least six months.• Infrequent use of drugs and/ or alcohol which occasionally impairs parenting skills or abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced effectiveness in daily functioning due to substance abuse or addiction.• Parent, guardian, or custodian uses drugs and/or alcohol results in erratic or unreliable parenting of child.• Social and/ or support network includes knowing abusers of drugs or alcohol.• Has failed treatment programs or has not completed treatment in past or successful completion and current use of alcohol or drugs.• History of DUI and/ or drug or alcohol related criminal activity.• Has begun treatment although has not establish consistent participation.• Heavy use is occasional, weekend, or situational, rather than an established pattern indicating addiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substantial incapacity due to substance abuse or addiction.• Parent, guardian, or custodian's use of substance results in an inability to meet any of child's basic needs.• Use of substances results in emotional abusive and/or violent behavior.• Drug using or drug making paraphernalia accessible to child.• Recent history of DUI and/ or drug or alcohol related criminal activity or extensive gestational substance abuse.• Inability to maintain employment due to substance abuse.• Denial of impact of substance abuse on parent, guardian, or custodian's ability to provide for child's needs.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian does not abuse alcohol or drugs.• Parent, guardian, or custodian ensures the child has a safe place to go when substances are used in the home.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is not involved in selling illegal drugs.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has strong sense of his/her own struggle in the area of drugs and alcohol and takes active steps to control his/her substance use.	
Family strengths that can support case plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has sought treatment in the past.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has a sponsor though AA or NA.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is willing to talk about use/abuse with spouse and children (as appropriate).• Parent, guardian, or custodian is currently in treatment.• Parent, guardian, or custodian can say how long they have been clean.	
Mental, Emotional, Intellectual, or Physical Limitations		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mental, emotional, intellectual or physical impairment mildly interferes with the capacity to parent.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has some mild physical or emotional impairment causing minimal interference with some daily activities.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has emotional problems for which he/she is receiving effective treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mental, emotional, intellectual or physical impairment interferes significantly with the capacity to parent.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has a physical, mental or emotional impairment that interferes with daily parenting activities.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is being supervised by a physician for a physical, mental or emotional condition, but does not consistently comply with treatment plan.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is depressed and unable to provide nurturance and stimulation to child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to a mental, emotional, intellectual or physical impairment, capacity to parent is severely inadequate.• Acute or chronic illness or disability that significantly impairs the parent, guardian, or custodian's ability to care for child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has serious mental illness, but refuses to participate in treatment plan.• Parent, guardian, or custodian's physical, mental or emotional impairment causes them to be vulnerable to dangerous situations.• Parent, guardian, or custodian impairment causes failure of parent, guardian, or custodian to recognize dangers and protect child from harm.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has history of injuries, assaults, exploitation, and suicide attempts due to physical, mental or emotional impairment.

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has low tolerance for stressors and may react in emotionally inappropriate ways.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has developmental delay and relies on consistent support to manage daily activities.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has low-self-esteem, anxiety attacks and mood swings that minimally impact parenting functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian requires consistent support to manage daily activities, but does not have the help required.	
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian is mentally, emotionally, intellectually, and physically capable of parenting child.• Family members/ friends are aware of disabilities and step in when required to ensure the child is cared for.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has sought treatment for mental health/ physical/ developmental limitations, and is using the information to improve parenting.• Parent, guardian, or custodian uses assisted device(s) to enable timely interaction with the child and community (TDD, hearing aides, guide dogs, etc.).	
Family strengths that can support case plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian uses medication as prescribed.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has an optimistic approach to life.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has an ability to express elf so that they can be understood.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is willing, but does not have resources or knowledge to obtain services.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is involved in support groups and activities that teach ways to parent with existing limitations.	
General History of Violence		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has engaged in isolated incident of assaultive behavior not resulting in injury.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has engaged in yelling, shoving or other physically aggressive behaviors with children and/or adults that have not resulted in injuries• Parent, guardian, or custodian has a history of violence and has successfully participated in credible treatment program designed to address violent behaviors.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has history of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has sporadic incidents of assaultive behavior which result in or could result in minor injury.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has engaged in physical altercations with children and/or adults resulting in minor injuries.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has occasionally engaged in abusive/assaultive or intimidating behaviors toward children and/or adults.• Parent, guardian, or custodian's family, social contacts or others express fear of the parent, guardian, or custodian's assaultive behavior.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has difficulty in work, social or other situations as a result of intimidating and aggressive language and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single incident or repeated incidents of assaultive behavior which results in or could result in major injury.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has had a prior substantiated report for child abuse or arrest history or crimes against others• Parent, guardian, or custodian engages in behaviors with children and/or adults resulting in serious injuries.• Parent, guardian, or custodian frequently engages in abuse/assaultive/intimidating behaviors toward children and/or adults.• Parent, guardian, or custodian's family, social contacts or others are afraid of the parent, guardian, or custodian and avoid contact with him/her. Parent, guardian, or custodian may have history of restraining orders against him/her for violence or assault• Parent, guardian, or custodian has refused, failed, or not completed treatment and persists in violent behavior.

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

unsubstantiated reports of physical abuse toward children.	behaviors.	
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian demonstrates the ability to resolve some conflicts in a non-aggressive manner.• Parent, guardian, or custodian uses learned anger management techniques to control their own behavior.	
Family strengths that can support case plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian is able to admit that he/she has a temper.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has sought help for his/her temper.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is assertive, but not aggressive about getting needs met.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has good relationship with co-workers.	
Domestic Violence in the Family		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian engages in isolated incidents of domestic violence.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian engages in social isolating behaviors with partner, limiting partner's contact with family and friends.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian engages in pushing and shoving partner.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian uses emotionally abusive language toward partner.• Child may be present or witness domestic violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian frequently engages in incidents of domestic violence including destroying property.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian is frequently emotionally abusive toward partner.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian threaten or harm to pets and/or family members causing minor injuries.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian uses finances to control behaviors/life of family members.• Child may try to intervene or seek help from others.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian cuts partner off from family and other social supports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian engages in repeated incidents of domestic violence with severe emotional/physical consequences.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian coerces partner into sexual relations in front of child.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian engages in patterns of physical assault, threats, or intimidation of partner.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian does not allow partner access to finances, controls all expenditures, and does not allow partner access to transportation.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian uses/threatens to use weapons to harm family members.• Abusive parent, guardian, or custodian isolates partner and partner is punished if outside contact occurs.• Non-abusive parent, guardian, or custodian denies violence despite evidence, appears detached, withdrawn, or emotionless in light of violence, and sometimes can be seriously harmed and or hospitalized as a result of the DV.• Repeated police intervention for DV.• Abusive partner may threaten to kill partner if attempts are made to leave.• Child is physically harmed during DV altercation.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian knows his/her own temperament and leaves the home when anger is triggered.• Parent, guardian, or custodian does not engage in any domestic violence.• Non-abusive parent, guardian, or custodian has a safety plan and protects the child.• Non-abusive parent, guardian, or custodian seeks assistance to ensure the family is safe.	
Family strengths that can support case plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friends and family members are aware of the situation and do not blame the victim(s).• Non-abusive parent, guardian, or custodian knows it is not her/his fault.	
Protection of Child by Non-Abusive Parent, Guardian or Custodian		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian is willing, but occasionally unable to protect the child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is willing to protect child although lacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian's protection of child is inconsistent or unreliable.• Parent, guardian, or custodian obtains protection order, but allows violation of the order.• Parent, guardian, or custodian	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian is unwilling to protect child and/or does not recognize danger posed by abusive parent, guardian, or custodian.• Parent, guardian, or custodian does not follow through with obtaining a protection order.• Parent, guardian, or custodian allows contact between child and abusive parent, guardian, or custodian.

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

confidence in ability to do so. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian provides protection by having child stay with appropriate friends or relatives.	questions or doubts need to provide protection for child. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian maintains relationship with abusive parent, guardian, or custodian.• Parent, guardian, or custodian allows supervised contact between abusive parent, guardian, or custodian and child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian questions child's account of abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian remains committed to the relationship with the abusive parent, guardian or custodian.• Parent, guardian, or custodian leaves child alone with abusive parent, guardian, or custodian.• Parent, guardian, or custodian blames child for abuse and or pressures child to deny or recant reports of abuse.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian demonstrates an ability to protect the child from dangerous persons and situations.• Parent, guardian, or custodian does not cover for abusive parent, guardian, or custodian.• Parent, guardian, or custodian believes and supports child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian call for emergency assistance when a threat exists.• Parent, guardian, or custodian recognizes dangerous situations and steps in to protect.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is able to put the child's needs above his/her own.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has safety plan to protect child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian uses family or other resources to protect.	
Family strengths that can support case plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has talked to child in age appropriate ways about the family situation and sought to reassure the child that he/she will protect the child.• Child is able to talk about the home situation and how he/she feels about it.• Parent, guardian, or custodian and child are able to find times to play together and enjoy one another even though the home circumstances are not ideal.	
Parent’s History of Child Abuse/Neglect as a Child		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian had occasional incidents of abuse or neglect as a child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian remembers incidents of harsh punishment although did not perceive it as abuse.• Parent, guardian, or custodian recalls some abusive discipline.• Parent, guardian, or custodian's siblings were abused, but parent, guardian, or custodian was not.• Parent, guardian, or custodian was victim of abuse and received support and protection from other family members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian had repeated incidents of abuse or neglect as a child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian reports basic needs not frequently met.• Parent, guardian, or custodian received harsh physical punishment on a regular basis resulting in frequent injuries.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has no sense of belonging or attachment to a family.• Parent, guardian, or custodian experienced a lack of consistent parenting by a loving parent, guardian, or custodian.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has history of chronic/severe abuse as a child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian reports being a victim of severe neglect that resulted in physical problems.• Parent, guardian, or custodian was victim of assaults resulting in fractured bones, physical disability, or emotional trauma.• Parent, guardian, or custodian was victim of sexual abuse and received no support, protection or affirmation from family.• Parent, guardian, or custodian recalls repeated beatings and/or physical attacks.• Parent, guardian, or custodian reports severe emotional rejection, scapegoating and humiliation by own parents.• Parent, guardian, or custodian was deprived of food, clothing, rest or medical care as a form of punishment.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has been able to learn from the past and can demonstrate how this learning directly influences his/her child rearing.• Parent, guardian, or custodian acknowledgement of how they were parented has resulted in taking specific steps not to repeats the patterns.	
Family strengths that can	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian was raised in health, non-abusive environment.	

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

support case plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian indicates he/she has worked though issues relating to his/her upbringing and can talk about them freely.• Caretaker sought help to learn how to parent more effectively.• Parent, guardian, or custodian talks about how to avoid the mistakes of his/her parents thus avoiding the cycle of abuse.	
Recognition of Problem/Motivation to Change/Level of Cooperation		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian recognizes a problem exists and is willing to take some responsibility.• Parent, guardian, or custodian appears angry and uncooperative, but complies with service plan.• Parent, guardian, or custodian recognizes, but may not understand problem• Parent, guardian, or custodian understands that child has been affected by Child Abuse/ Neglect (CA/N), but does not understand the consequences to child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is initially angry at allegation, but later agrees to comply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has superficial understanding of the problem and fails to accept responsibility for behavior.• Parent, guardian, or custodian undermines communication between service providers and CPS.• Parent, guardian, or custodian project blame onto child or others.• Parent, guardian, or custodian minimizes impact of the problem on child and/or family or overestimates child's resilience and ability to cope with abuse.• Participation is unproductive, conflict-ridden, and argumentative and/or parent, guardian, or custodian is passive giving no attention to the service.• Parent, guardian, or custodian demonstrates no change in behavior despite service participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian has no understanding of the problem and refuses to accept any responsibility.• Parent, guardian, or custodian refuses access to child and/or refuses to work with CPS and/or service providers.• Parent, guardian, or custodian blames others for intervention.• Parent, guardian, or custodian maintains denial although presented with evidence and/or denies emotional and behavioral impact of problems/ abuse on child.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is extremely hostile to CPS contact or involvement with the family and will not work toward calming/improving the relationship.• Parent, guardian, or custodian refuses to change behaviors to alleviate CA/N, and/or has network that supports continued CA/N.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has extensive history of refusal to work with CPS.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent, guardian, or custodian is willing to accept responsibility and follows through with action plan.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has left abusive situation in the past.• Parent, guardian, or custodian has separated themselves from the abusive environment.	
Family strengths that can support case plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family is supportive of parent, guardian, or custodians’ efforts to change and grow.• Parent, guardian, or custodian asks for help.• Parent, guardian, or custodian wants to make things right for his/her family and is willing to do what it takes.• Parent, guardian, or custodian can talk to spouse about issues.• Parent, guardian, or custodian is learning about personal issues/ reactions and how these result in child abuse or neglect.	

Family Risk Factors

Economic Resources of Family		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregiver works long hours or multiple jobs to make ends meet • Family lacks resources to meet educational, recreational or social needs. • Family is unable to seek regular medical care due to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family can minimally meet basic needs, but crisis leaves family without means to provide for basic needs. • Family lives in unsafe environment due to lack of resources • Family member has ongoing medical condition, but is unable to treat due to lack of financial resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family resorts to illegal means to provide financial support. • Family member has life-threatening medical condition that goes untreated due to lack of financial resources. • Family has no access to supports that can provide help with basic needs. • Family's resources are so limited that caregiver must juggle meeting needs based on level of crisis.

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

financial limitations. • Family seeks help from extended family, community and charities to supplement the meeting of basic needs.	• Family is dependent upon extended family, community and charities to meet basic needs.	• Family lacks a source of income to meet basic needs.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk	• Family has resources to meet basic needs. • Caregiver maintains gainful employment. • Caregiver has found "free" ways to have fun with children in community. • Caregiver has gone to family/friends to ask for help to ensure basic needs are met.	
Family strengths that can support case plan	• Caregiver does not take financial stressors out on children. • Caregiver appear to be working together to solve family financial struggle. • Caregiver expresses "light at end of the tunnel" • Caregiver is willing to talk about the stress that occurs with limited resources.	
Family Social Support System		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
• Family is supportive, but not close by. • Community services are available, but difficult to access or too infrequent. • Family is new to the area and has yet to access social supports. • Parent, guardian, or custodian does not see the services being provided as helpful. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has social acquaintances, but no close friends, family or intimate partner.	• Family lives in an isolated area and is unable to access community or family supports. • Limited community resources available. • The support the family receives from family and friends is inconsistent and unreliable. • Services may be offered to the family, but remain inaccessible due to language barriers or the service provider's lack of familiarity with the culture of the family. • Parent, guardian, or custodian asks for help only when he/she is in crisis. • Social contacts are not emotionally supportive and some may be emotionally destructive • Parent, guardian, or custodian cannot maintain friendships or casual social acquaintances.	• Parent, guardian, or custodian is hostile and threatening toward offers of help with basic needs even though family is suffering. • Primary parent, guardian, or custodian is largely restricted to the home with little opportunity for periodic relief from continuous interaction with child. • Family is alienated from or has an ongoing conflict with extended family, friends or neighbors. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has no one to turn to for emotional support or practical assistance in crisis or emergency. • Family is geographically isolated and has no means to access help or support in times of emergency or crisis, i.e. transportation or telephone.
Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above	• Children (as appropriate) have frequent supportive contact with friends and relatives. • Parent, guardian, or custodian uses community supports to meet family needs. • Parent, guardian, or custodian is involved with activities outside the home that maintain social connections. • Parent, guardian, or custodian ensures child is involved in activities reducing social isolation.	
Family Strengths that can support case plan development	• Parent, guardian, or custodian expresses interest in children's involvement in school activities. • Parent, guardian, or custodian seeks out supportive contact with friends/family. • Parent, guardian, or custodian is open to joining community support activities. • Children are eager to have friends over for play. • Family is open to feedback and support for their friends.	
Current Family Stress		
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
• Family is experiencing mild stress • Parent, guardian, or custodian experiences	• Family is experiencing significant stress. • Crisis and/or losses have led to intense anxiety, depression or	• Family is experiencing multiple and/or severe stress or life changes. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has been evicted from housing and is homeless.

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Arizona Department of Child Safety

<p>difficulty managing disruptions in household.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor irritants lead to emotional distress for parent, guardian, or custodian. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has difficulty maintaining perspective and mood stability under normal stress. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has limited income and regularly struggles to meet basic needs. 	<p>frequent family conflict.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, guardian, or custodian has ongoing conflict with intimate partner and/or intense conflict with siblings and extended family members. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has lost significant portion of financial income. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has chronic physical/medical problems resulting in pain and emotional discomfort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, guardian, or custodian has lost major source of financial income • Parent, guardian, or custodian has recently experienced the death of a child or other family member • Parent, guardian, or custodian has recently experienced divorce or the loss of an intimate partner.
<p>Protective behaviors which mitigate risk identified above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, guardian, or custodian has a normal amount of stress and is able to manage it effectively. • Parent, guardian, or custodian manages stress in healthy ways such as exercise, reading, music. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has supports to manage stress- a place to vent. 	
<p>Family strengths that can support case plan development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family can talk openly about the stressors parent, guardian, or custodians(s) are facing. • Children do not appear fearful of bringing up topics that may cause stress. • Children are aware of family stressors and do not believe they have to "fix" the family's plight. • Children do not believe that the issues the family is facing are their fault. • Parent, guardian, or custodian has asked to learn about stress management techniques. • Parent, guardian, or custodian believe in own capacity to manage life stressors. 	

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